

The new Act applies to "every female person in any trade or occupation in Nova Scotia who works for wages," but farm workers and domestic servants are expressly excepted. No Minimum Wage Board, however, has yet been named. A new Act was passed in Alberta in 1925 to take the place of the Act of 1922, the earlier Act having been found defective in its construction. It contains a few new provisions, the most important of which enables the Board to authorize wages below the minimum standard when the hours of work are short or when meals or lodgings are provided, and to provide for the instruction of learners, who need in no case be required to pay premiums. Provision is also made for a temporary increase in working hours on the occasion of a break-down of machinery, etc. In Manitoba, at the legislative session of 1925, it was announced that an investigation would be held during the recess into the working of the Act, in order to ascertain whether it was true, as alleged by labour representatives, that it resulted in the substitution of boys for girls in employment. The Act was amended in regard to the recovery by employees of arrears of wages and in some other minor particulars.

Table 24 shows comparatively the weekly wages for experienced adults fixed by the Boards of Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario and Saskatchewan. In Manitoba orders were issued separately for each type of factory; these are grouped in the table under the heading "Manufacturing."

Minimum wage orders in all provinces fix special rates for learners, apprentices or minors, that is, workers under 18 years of age, and some make provision for the physically defective. The learning period ranges from 3 to 18 months, according to the nature of the occupation affected by the order, and the rates of wages advance by stages of proficiency until the full minimum wage for experienced adults is reached.

The Boards have power to limit the number of learners and minors employed at a plant. The proportion of these classes to experienced workers varies widely. In British Columbia the proportion for factory workers is 14.3 p.c. and in Manitoba 25 p.c. In Ontario the proportion allowed is 50 p.c. of adult learners and minors combined; neither of these classes, however, can exceed 33 p.c. of the experienced adults employed. In Alberta, the proportion of learners allowed to the total female employees is 25 p.c. in factories.

The Boards of all provinces except Quebec have power to fix not only the minimum wages but also the maximum number of hours for which such wages shall be paid. There is, however, a wide divergence in the standards of working hours which have been fixed by the various orders. Many of these orders provide for a working week of 48 hours, but allow latitude in regard to the distribution of these hours throughout the week, to permit of a Saturday half-holiday, with consequent lengthening of working hours beyond 8 hours on the other days of the week.

The Alberta Board has issued orders limiting the working week to 48 hours, (or 9 hours in any one day), except in the case of shops, stores and mail order houses, in which the limit is 52 hours in the week (10½ hours on Saturday, and 9 on any other day). The Board may provide for longer working hours under pressure of seasonal work.

In British Columbia a week of 48 hours is prescribed for workers in offices, in public housekeeping, in personal service, in theatres and in telephone and tele-